CITY POLICE VOLUNTEERS HELP RESIDENTS KEEP THEIR HOMES SAFE AND SECURE

By: Mike Nottoli

Rocklin Police Community Programs Coordinator

If you think locking a door and turning a deadbolt are all that is needed to keep your home safe when you're away, think again. Burglars are looking to take advantage of careless homeowners, and the City of Rocklin Police Department, along with resident volunteers, has a program to help you keep your home secure.

Residents should contact the Rocklin Police Department volunteer line at 625-5418 to request a free home security inspection. Trained officials will inspect the interior and exterior of your home, examining locks, lighting, landscaping, windows, perimeter security, and much more. They will then prepare a detailed written report to let you know what improvements may need to be made to increase your home security.

For those of you who still haven't taken your summer vacation, you can also request a free vacation check from the Rocklin Police Department. You can travel in confidence knowing that Rocklin police volunteers will check your home on a regular basis and contact you or someone you designate if they discover any problems.

In addition to utilizing the home security inspections and vacation checks, the following are some tips provided by the Rocklin Police Department that can significantly increase the safety of your property while you are away enjoying your vacation.

- An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar, so make your home look and sound occupied while you are away.
- Stop all deliveries and/or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, advertisements, and packages while you are gone.
 Canceling your mail or newspaper could tip off a dishonest mail or newspaper employee that you will be away.
- If you will be gone for a long period of time, arrange for someone to mow your lawn, water your yard, and maintain the area while you are away.
- Place your inside lights on timers so that they go on and off periodically during the night time hours.
- Place exterior lights on timers or photoelectric cells that turn them on automatically when the sun goes down and off when the sun comes up.

Never leave exterior lights on during the day. This is a dead give-away that you are not at home.

- Install a radio on a timer so it can be heard outside your front door during daytime and evening hours (have it go off when you would normally go to bed.)
- Hide your garbage cans out of sight. If your garbage cans are empty
 when your neighbors' cans are full, it is a sign that you are not at home.
 Have a neighbor put out your garbage cans on the regular pick-up date. If
 you don't have any garbage to put out, put the cans out anyway and have
 the neighbors fill them with their extra trash.
- Never leave a voice mail message indicating that you will be away on vacation.
- When possible, have a friend or family member park a car in your driveway so it looks like someone is still at home. You may also leave one of your own vehicles in the driveway.
- Give a trusted neighbor a key and your alarm access code in case they
 have to make entry. You may want them to check the inside each day for
 problems such as broken water pipes.
- Make sure side gates are secured with a padlock to keep people out of your back yard.
- Make sure to secure your garage doors (side, front, and the door leading to the interior of the home). You may want to install a padlock on the interior track of the roll-up garage door so no one can open it.
- Activate and use your neighborhood watch program. Let your neighbors know you will be away, how you can be reached, and when you will be returning.

The Rocklin Police Department has 58 volunteers, and will be hiring approximately 35 more in September. Volunteer candidates must successfully complete an application, oral interview, background investigation, Live Scan fingerprint check, and a Volunteer Academy that meets one evening per week for ten weeks. If you have any questions, or want to learn how to become a volunteer, contact Rocklin Police Community Programs Coordinator Mike Nottoli at 625-5416.

For more information on the City of Rocklin visit our Web site at <u>www.rocklin.ca.us</u> or call 916-625-5560.